

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 IO-11 AID-05 CU-02

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3791

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1678

FOLNG SENT NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY CALCUTTA AND COLOMBO FROM MADRAS
DTD 03 FEB.

QUOTE: MADRAS 0204

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN TAMIL NADU

REF: MADRAS 0200

1. AS OF 5 P.M. FEBRUARY 3, SITUATION REMAINS PEACEFUL IN MADRAS,
BUT WITH ARRESTS CONTINUING (REFTEL). WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED CON-
FIRMATION FROM THE POLICE THAT MURASOLI MARAN, MP, WHO IS KAR-
UNANIDHI'S NEPHEW AND SON-IN-LAW AND THE EDITOR OF THE DMK ORGAN
MURASOLI, WAS ARRESTED ABOUT MID-DAY. WE HAVE HEARD OF ONLY A
COUPLE OF ISOLATED INCIDENTS. YESTERDAY PRO-DMK STUDENTS AT THE
LAW COLLEGE STAYED AWAY FROM THEIR CLASSES AND SHOUTED SLOGANS
AGAINST MRS. GANDHI. TODAY POLICE ARE POSTED AT THE COLLEGE,
BUT CLASSES HAVE RESUMED AND THINGS ARE QUIET. WE ARE TOLD THAT
LATE THIS MORNING THERE WAS SOME ANIMOSITY SHOWN TOWARDS THE PO-
LICE BY SOME OF THE VISITORS TO THE ANNA SAMADHI, ACCOMPANIED
BY SOME PUSHING AND SHOVING, BUT NO ARRESTS TOOK PLACE AT THE
SITE. WE ARE ALSO INFORMED THAT HANDWRITTEN POSTERS HAVE APP-
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EARED IN THANJAVUR DECRYING MRS. GANDHI'S INCREASINGLY AUTHOR-

ITARIAN RULE. FYI: THANJAVUR IS AN AREA WHERE BOTH THE DK RPT
DK AND THE CPM ARE STRONG AND IS ONE OF THE MORE LIKELY PLACES
WHERE NEGATIVE REACTION MIGHT OCCUR.

2. OUR FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE THAT THE CHARGES MADE AGAINST
THE DMK GOVERNMENT IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR SEEM TO BE
HAVING MUCH LESS IMPACT THAT WE ASSUMED WAS HOPED FOR. MANY WE
TALK WITH POINT OUT THAT THEY ARE SIMPLY THE OLD POINTS MADE
EARLIER IN REPRESENTATIONS TO MRS. GANDHI BY M.G. RAMACHANDRAN
AND CPI MP KALYANASUNDARAM, AND THAT KARUNANIDHI HAS REPLIED
TO MOST OF THEM ALREADY, PARTICULARLY IN A STATEMENT IN THE TAMIL
NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN LATE 1972. MOST UNCOMMITTED PEOPLE
READILY CONCEDE THAT THERE WERE LAPSES IN THE DMK ADMINISTRATOR,
INCLUDING CORRUPTION, BUT DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS A UNIQUE DIST-
INCTION IN THE ANNALS OF INDIAN STATE OR NATIONAL POLITICS AND
GOVERNMENT AND BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS NO NEW ELEMENT IN THE LOCAL
SITUATION WARRANTING SUCH PROVOCATIVE ACTION BY MRS. GANDHI.
NOBODY WE HAVE TALKED WITH BELIEVES THAT GOVERNOR SHAH INITIATED
THE ACTION, AND THE GENERAL ASSUMPTION IS THAT HE WAS PRESENTED
WITH THE CHARGE-SHEET AND TOLD TO SIGN IT.

3. SEVERAL CONTACTS ARE VOLUNTEERING COMMENTS THAT THE APPOINT-
MENTS OF A PALGHAT BRAHMIN (R.V. SUBRAMANIAM) AND A NORTH INDIAN
(DAVE) AS ADVISERS ARE ILL-ADVISED CHOICES IN THE LIGHT OF THE
STRONG LATENT ANTI-BRAHMIN, ANTI-NORTH SENTIMENTS HERE. SOME
NOTE ALSO THAT THE ANTI-DMK EDITORIAL
CARRIED BY THE HINDU
YESTERDAY (MADRAS 190) IS BEING WIDELY COMMENTED ON AND EXPLOITED
IN THE ANTI-BRAHMIN CONTEXT.

4. WHILE PRO-CONGRESS (R) TAMIL DAILIES CONTINUED TO PRAISE THE
DISMISSAL OF THE DMK MINISTRY, A FEW MORE INDEPENDENT VIEWS
WERE APPARENT. THE INDIAN EXPRESS RAN A RESTRAINED AND BALANCED
EDITORIAL WHICH WE ASSUME IS AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY IN THE
DELHI EDITION. DINAMANI, THE TAMIL DAILY OF THE EXPRESS GROUP,
CAME OUT WITHOUT AN EDITORIAL TODAY, FOLLOWING THE EDITOR'S
REFUSAL TO AGREE TO THE DEMAND OF THE CENSORS THAT HE SUBMIT ANY
EDITORIAL ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN TAMIL NADU FOR
PRIOR APPROVAL. AN ANTI-MERGER CONGRESS (O) PAPER, VIDIVELLI,
CARRIED A TONGUE-IN-CHEEK ARTICLE ENTITLED "SPLENDID' PRESIDENT'S
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RULE," WHICH GAVE A LONG LIST OF BENEFITS THAT COULD SOON BE
EXPECTED IN TAMIL NADU: PRICES WILL FALL, PETROL AND DIESEL
WILL BECOME CHEAP, THERE WILL BE NO BEGGARS, AND EVERYONE WILL
OWN A HOUSE AND A PIECE OF LAND.
EAVES UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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NNN

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